

Filed for intro on 04/03/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 793  
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Lady Blue Devils of Jackson County High School on winning the 2002 TSSAA Class AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County High School Lady Blue Devils are one such estimable team; during their outstanding 2001-02 season, they won the TSSAA Class AA State Championship and ensured that this year's team will hold a position of honor in the rich history of Lady Blue Devil basketball; and

WHEREAS, during their remarkable championship run, they compiled a magnificent record of thirty-three wins against just four losses; and

WHEREAS, the season's first championship was garnered at the Lady of the South Invitational Christmas Tournament in Scottsville, Kentucky, where the team defeated Logan County, Kentucky; Clarksville Northwest; Gallatin; and Muhlenberg North, Kentucky; and

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WHEREAS, the Lady Blue Devils were the class of District 7-AA; they were undefeated in district play, and the All-District Team included Lady Blue Devils Deanna Apple, Alyssa Bowman, Marissa Hensley, Emily Lane, and Andrea Davidson, who was selected as District Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, they began the postseason by defeating Cannon County and Upperman to claim the District 7-AA Tournament Championship; Alyssa Bowman was selected as Tournament Most Valuable Player, and she was joined on the All-Tournament Team by Andrea Davidson and Emily Lane; and

WHEREAS, in the Region 4-AA Tournament, the ladies of Jackson County posted convincing victories over Greenbrier, Livingston Academy, and Upperman to claim yet another title; Ms. Davidson was honored as Region Tournament Most Valuable Player, and Courtney Childress and Marissa Hensley were also chosen for the Region All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, at the Sectional level, the Lady Blue Devils defeated Tellico Plains in front of a capacity crowd at Kermit Forkum Gymnasium to earn a berth in the 2002 TSSAA Class AA Girls Basketball State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, they opened the tournament with a hard-fought victory over a talented squad from McMinn Central before breezing past Knoxville Austin-East by a score of 61-31 in the semifinals to advance to the championship game; and

WHEREAS, feeling victory within their grasps, the Lady Blue Devils maintained their unwavering focus and dispatched the Giles County team by a convincing score of 47-28 to claim the State Championship; and

WHEREAS, they were led to victory in the tournament by Most Valuable Player Andrea Davidson and Alyssa Bowman and Marissa Hensley, who were honored on the State All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, for the senior members of the team, the victory was the pinnacle achievement of a string of four seasons that will not soon be forgotten; Andrea Davidson and

Emily Lane are the only two players ever to play in four TSSAA Class AA Championship Games, and the Lady Blue Devils had a 121-26 record during their careers; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Blue Devil underclassmen were Juniors Deanna Apple, Alyssa Bowman, Jennifer Harris, Ashley Hopkins, and Megan Pepper; Sophomores Courtney Childress, Sheena Hager, Marissa Hensley, Amanda Naff, Kayla Olson, and Candace Stafford; and Freshman Allison Richardson; and

WHEREAS, this laudable basketball team attained its magnificent success through much hard work and tremendous teamwork; that success was also precipitated by the vast talents of the individuals who comprised the squad and earned numerous individual honors; and

WHEREAS, the highest honor earned by any of the Lady Blue Devils was that earned by them all, the title of State Champions; and

WHEREAS, they received much assistance in their championship effort from Managers Lucy Anderson, Dot Chambers, Stephene Clayton, Andrea McMillan, and Miles Stewart and Trainer Shawn Moffitt; and

WHEREAS, these talented young women were ably guided by Head Coach Jim Brown and Assistant Coaches Kelly Coe and Barbara Brown, who laid the groundwork for the Lady Blue Devils' success by sharing their substantial knowledge and love of basketball with the team; and

WHEREAS, holding Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Tennessee Technological University, Coach Jim Brown has earned the respect and admiration of the entire Tennessee basketball community since taking the helm of the Lady Blue Devils in 1992; his teams have won five district tournament championships, two region tournament championships, four sectional championships, and three consecutive state championships; and

WHEREAS, The basketball players at Jackson County High School epitomize all that is good in the ideal student-athlete; they have achieved notable success on the basketball court while displaying the utmost character both inside and outside of the gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, the stalwart dedication, strong work ethic, and many talents of this group of young women not only led to an outstanding season but also surely bode well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Jackson County Lady Blue Devils for their success on the court and for serving as excellent examples of the tremendous quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate the Jackson County Lady Blue Devils on earning the 2002 TSSAA Class AA Basketball State Championship and join with their teachers, families, and friends in celebrating their remarkable success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish them success in every future endeavor, both inside and outside of the gymnasium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.